Check-measuring of works executed by the Vellarappalli Panchayat.

168. Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—(a) Who it is that supervises and check-measures the works executed by the contractors in the Vellarappalli Group Panchayat;

(b) whether the President of the Panchayat area in question has any powers of supervising and check-measuring the works executed by contractors in the Panchayat area in question?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) Works are supervised by the President of the Panchayat; Minor Irrigation Overseer and such other officers as the Superintendent of Agricu'ture and Panchayats may authorise. Works costing Rs. 200 and below are to be check-measured by the Minor Irrigation Overseer or other officer authorised by the Superintendent and those above Rs. 200 by the Superintendent.

(b) The President has power of supervision but not of check-measuring.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—In the matter of works generally contrants may I know in whose name the contract is taken? Is it in the name of the Agricultural Superintendent or in the name of the Panchayat President ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Sometimes in the name of the President for the Superintendent.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Just as in Municipalities, where the contract is entered in the name of the Chairman, is the contract entered in the name of the Superintendent ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes, in the Superintendent's name.

President.—The agreement lies in the name of the Panchayat Superintendent. The work is to be done in the presence of the Panchayat President and he is to supervise the work.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Is the agreement executed in the name of the Superintendent ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes.

Supply of medicines to the Medical Department.

169. Mr. A. B. Salem.—Will the Government be pleased to inform:—

(a) the names of the catalogues of medicines and instruments with which the price of Messrs. Dada & Co., were compared by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, whereby he came to the conclusion that the prices charged by Messrs. Dada & Co., were comparatively cheaper, and will the Government be pleased to place such catalogues on the Table of this House;

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(b) will the Government be pleased to prepare and place on the Table a statement of the prices paid for medicines and instruments supplied by Messrs. Dada & Co., with the relative prices of well-known firms as Messrs. Burgoyne & Burbridges Co., Ltd., or any other European manufacturing firm or firms with which the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer compared the prices quoted or charged by Messrs. Dada & Co., for supplies in the years 1925, 1926, 1927 and up to the 1st July 1928;

(c) will the Government be pleased to state if any local firm or firms (in Cochin or British Cochin) tendered to supply medicines manufactured by well-known and reliable firms according to the requirements of the Chief Medical Officer and the prices quoted by them;

(d) whether such prices when compared with prices charged by Messrs. Dada & Co., were favourable or unfavourable ones to the Department;

(e) will the Government be pleased to state the value, the quantity and the nature of the medicines got down by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer from firms or places other than Messrs. Dada & Co., and if so, the names of the firms and their addresses and their general catalogues be placed on the Table of the House;

(f) will the Government be pleased to state the total amount of money paid to Dada & Co., in 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) In the first year the comparison was made with Messrs. Ferris & Co.'s price list. Their catalogues of that year have been destroyed under the provisions in the Standing Orders.

(b) The statement required could not be prepared as it involves a laborious work which the existing hands could not do without prejudice to their ordinary duties. Price lists in original obtained from Messrs. Dada & Co., from time to time and the catalogues with which they were compared are placed on the Council Table for reference. It may be noted that the price of Messrs. Dada & Co., includes value of drugs, import duty, clearing and conveyance charges to the nearest Railway Stations of all institutions and allowance for replacing breakages and shortages and the interest on the amount outstanding so that all these charges must be added to the price of drugs of English catalogues for purposes of comparison.

(c) Yes; by Mr. S. Koder. His quotation in original is placed on the Council Table for reference.

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(d) Not favourable according to the latest price list furnished by Messrs. Dada & Co.

(e) As there is no indication of the period for which the information is required it is not possible to furnish the information.

(f) The following figures are furnished according to

M. E.	Rs. A. P.
1100	29,000—0—0
1101	33,799—8—6
1102	55,020—2—1
1103	83,854—0—0

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know which is the Standing Order by which these records have been destroyed ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—These papers may be destroyed after three years.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Which is the Standing Order which says when and how ?

President.—When can you destroy these records ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—After three years.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I must search for it. If I have not time I shall put the full questions again, or I shall put these questions if there is time when the other questions are finished.

170. Mr. A. B. Salem.—Will the Government be pleased to inform:—

(a) the last year on which the Medical Department took supplies from Messrs. Ferris & Co. Ltd.;

(b) will the Government be pleased to place on the Table the complete list of that year's supply of medicines and instruments, etc., ordered from Messrs. Ferris & Co. Ltd., together with their invoices and a statement of the costs incurred therefor in the shape of payments to Pierce Leslie & Co. Ltd., and others with reference to that supply;

(c) will the Government be pleased to place on the Table a complete list of the medicines and instruments supplied to the Medical Department by Messrs. Dada & Co., since the contract for the supply of medicines and instruments has been given to them together with the list of prices charged and freight and other incidental expenses incurred by the Department on account of the same supplies ;

(d) will the Government be further pleased to place on the Table the invoices for the supplies of medicines and instruments, etc., for the last year's supply by Ferris & Co., referred to in question No. (b) and the invoices of Dada & Co., referred to in

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